

U.S. Appln. No. 09/778030

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the second paragraph on Page 1 (beginning on line 12) of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fuel cell systems require hydrogen as the energy source. This hydrogen is frequently produced by an endothermic conversion process from liquid energy carriers with a high H/C ratio. The necessary process heat is supplied by exothermic reactions which are implemented via autothermic or allothermic process modes. The combination of heat generation and hydrogen production units forms the fuel gas preparation system (a.k.a. "fuel processor") for the actual fuel cells, which are frequently arranged spatially[[,]] separated from the fuel gas preparation system.